

## What Is Your Greatest Good? Luke 12:13-34

“Highest Good” = Our most important goal; our highest ambition

*Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be.*  
Luke 12:34 (New Living Translation)

*The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.*  
Luke 12:34 (The Message)

Central truth of this passage: Whatever [captivates](#) your heart will [shape](#) your life.

Jesus gives us **two choices for our Greatest Good**.

- Greatest Good #1: **TO AMASS ALL THAT [I DESIRE](#) FOR MY OWN SECURITY AND COMFORT**

### Dangers of Making Material Security Your Greatest Good

- Obsession with worldly priorities will [keep you from hearing](#) Jesus.

*Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” <sup>14</sup>But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?”*  
Luke 12:13-14 (English Standard Version)

- Obsession with worldly possessions will mean you’ll miss what [life](#) is really all about.

*And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”*  
Luke 12:15 (ESV)

*And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, <sup>17</sup>and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ <sup>18</sup>And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.’ <sup>19</sup>And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ <sup>20</sup>But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ <sup>21</sup>So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”* Luke 12:16-21 (ESV)

*For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.* 1 Timothy 6:10 (ESV)

- If material security is your Greatest Good, then all your hard work will make your more and more [self-centered](#). (See Luke 12:21)

*Every good gift and every perfect present comes from heaven; it comes down from God, the Creator of the heavenly lights, who does not change or cause darkness by turning.* James 1:17 (Good News Translation)

- If you live to collect riches and do it as though God does not exist, you’re in danger of being a [spiritual fool](#). (See Luke 12:20-21)

- Greatest Good #2: **TO ACTIVELY PURSUE [GOD AND HIS RULE IN MY LIFE](#)**

*And he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. <sup>23</sup>For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.* Luke 12:22-23 (ESV)

*Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! <sup>25</sup>Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? <sup>26</sup>Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?* Luke 12:24-26 (NIV)

*Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! <sup>25</sup>And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? <sup>26</sup>If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? <sup>27</sup>Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>28</sup>But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! <sup>29</sup>And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. <sup>30</sup>For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup>Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.* Luke 12:24-31 (ESV)

*So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.*  
2 Corinthians 5:9 (ESV)